

# CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 31 Jan 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

## Uniworld godmother

**ENGLISH** actress, author and columnist Dame Joan Collins will be godmother of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's *S.S. Joie de Vivre* when she begins sailing the Seine River in Mar.

Fiona Dalton, md of Uniworld in Australia, told **CW** it was very important to the company that it invited a godmother who aligned with their ongoing commitment to France.

"Dame Joan Collins was a really terrific fit for us," she explained.

"She's somebody who spends a lot of time in France...she's a frequent visitor to the Paris fashion week & she's someone who really epitomises the joy of living philosophy, which is after all, what the *Joie de Vivre* is all about".

## Regent 2018/19 program

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has packed a 36-night circumnavigation of Australia into its now live 2018/19 program.

Operating on *Seven Seas Mariner*, the sailing departs from Sydney on 15 Dec.

The vessel will arrive down under after starting the season in Alaska and then charting the South Pacific to Asia and Australia, calling for the first time into Broome, WA & Oarai, Japan.

Australian ports also appear on *Seven Seas Navigator's* 131-night world cruise, when the vessel will visit Brisbane, Sydney, Fraser Island, Whitsunday Islands, Cairns, Thursday Island & Darwin.

The Apr 2018-Apr 2019 program sees four vessels operate a total of 113 itineraries, including visits to 28 maiden ports.

*Seven Seas Explorer* will return to Europe for a second consecutive summer season

in May 2018, followed by her maiden Africa season.

*Seven Seas Voyager* will also sail the Mediterranean, then head for the Caribbean, while *Seven Seas Navigator* is also scheduled to cruise an 89-night Grand Arctic Splendour voyage, Canada and New England cruises.

For details, visit [www.rssc.com](http://www.rssc.com).

## North Star rebrand

**EFFECTIVE** tomorrow, North Star Cruises Australia will change its trading name to True North Adventure Cruises.

After 30 years trading as North Star Cruises Australia, the company said in a statement it made the switch to "focus solely on the True North brand".

A new website address, [truenorth.com.au](http://truenorth.com.au) is already in operation & email addresses will switch to [@truenorth.com.au](mailto:@truenorth.com.au).

## CLIA 2016 finalists

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has released the list of finalists for its 2016 Cruise Industry Awards (**CW** breaking news).

A pool of 19 awards are up for grabs with the nominees including Phil Hoffmann Travel, Clean Cruising, South Coast Cruise & Travel and more.

Bicton Travel is nominated for the Cruise Agency of the Year - Australia, and if it wins, it will be the fourth year running.

CLIA Australasia md Joel Katz has promised the 2016 awards dinner will be the best yet.

"After a record year of cruising down under, we're looking forward to a fitting celebration," Katz said.

The suspense will end on 11 Feb at the 16th annual gala event, to be held at the Star Event Centre Sydney & emceed by Larry Emdur.

**CLICK HERE** for the full list, or head to [cruising.org.au](http://cruising.org.au) for tickets.

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## NCL guest loyalty

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Lines has enhanced its loyalty program, Latitude Rewards, to incorporate new benefits.

Two new elite tiers have been added: Platinum Plus for guests who have earned 175 points & over and Ambassador, for those who have accrued a minimum of 700 points.

Highlights of the boosted program include dinner with the ship's officer, a complimentary seven-day cruise, shore excursion discounts and more.

See the full range of new rewards by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## Lindblad Venture plans

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions' newbuild vessel *National Geographic Venture* will feature 50 cabins, 22 of which will have step-out balconies.

Plans also outline the inclusion of six sets of connecting cabins for families and groups.

*Venture's* inaugural voyage commences on 24 Jun.

## Carnival app live

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has launched a new app accessible on its Australian-based ships.

Dubbed Carnival Hub, guests will be able to utilise the mobile app to see the ship's activity schedule as well as bookmark the day's best events and a chat function can be activated for \$9.

The app is now live on *Carnival Spirit* and will be offered on *Carnival Legend* from 23 Feb.

## Azamara marketing rejig

**AZAMARA** Club Cruises has announced it will take a new direction in its brand positioning, putting a focus on longer stays and guest experiences.

With the new tagline "Stay Longer. Experience More", the line hopes to evolve its perception as a cruise line for discerning travellers.

President and ceo Larry Pimentel said Azamara's new angle offered two "powerful guest deliverables".

"The first is we're shifting from enabling our guests to immerse themselves in the destination, to delivering over one thousand new and existing destination experiences for guests to select from in over 70 countries," Pimentel said.

"These experiences provide the second powerful deliverable:

## Dream to Okinawa

**DREAM** Cruises will offer five-night trips from Hong Kong to Japan from Apr, as part of its newly released northern summer program for 2017.

*Genting Dream* will sail to the Japanese destinations of Naha and Miyakojima in the Okinawa island group.

"With pristine beaches, crystal clear water and myriad cultural and historic attractions, Okinawa Japan is a natural and popular choice for *Genting Dream* this summer," said Dream Cruises president Thatcher Brown.

one-to-one human connection."

Pimentel said land product would ensure guests connected with the people in destinations they visited, including through cultural experiences, food, music and events.

Azamara positions itself as a pioneer of longer port visits, offering 250 annual overnight and late night stays of 8pm or later.

The boutique brand operates two ships, *Azamara Journey* and *Azamara Quest*, the first of which will visit Australia & NZ in Feb.

## Crystal 2019 voyages

**CRYSTAL** has released its full 2019 cruise schedule, offering 260 voyages to 91 countries aboard its eight ships.

The program features six new ports including two maiden calls in Australia Tasmania's Port Arthur and Kangaroo Island in SA.

Crystal has also released its 2019 river cruise itineraries on the Danube, Rhine, Main and Moselle rivers.

For details, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Viking Sky delivery

**VIKING** Ocean Cruises has taken delivery of its third ship, *Viking Sky*, at a ceremony held at Italy's Fincantieri shipyard.

The vessel will sail from Rome's port of Civitavecchia on 25 Feb for the first of several Mediterranean cruises before heading to Norway for a christening at Tromsø on 22 Jun.

## Ports Aus ceo retires

**DAVID** Anderson, the long-service ceo of Ports Australia, has announced his intention to retire after nearly four decades in the field of transport policy.

The board is in the process of appointing a successor.

Anderson's retirement is effective from 10 Mar.



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**PONANT**  
YACHT CRUISES & EXPEDITIONS

Which new expedition ships is right for you? Find out in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE** to read **travelBulletin**



## Star engine troubles

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line was forced to revise the itinerary for its 16 Jan 06 Feb, 18 Feb and 24 Feb *Norwegian Star* sailings due to a technical malfunction which occurred on 24 Jan that saw the ship's speed restricted.

"We understand that our guests were looking forward to the original itinerary, and it is always our intention to sail that whenever possible," NCL said.

Instead of calling in at Komodo Island on 27 Jan, *Norwegian Star* spent the day at sea instead.

She will also skip the 01 Feb Cairns call, 04 Feb Brisbane visit, 09 Feb Tasmania stop, 12 Feb Milford Sound call and 16 Feb Napier stop.

Guests have been offered on board credit ranging from \$150 - \$500 for the inconvenience.

## Princess' summer breeze



**PRINCESS** Cruises is keeping agencies around the country cool by handing out branded personal desk fans.

The line's bdms delivered hundreds of fans last week, which display the messages 'Princess Cruises' and 'Come Back New' in blue neon when they are running.

The Flight Centre Raymond Terrace team Samantha Ward-Leroy, Caitlin Sivyver, Sarah Buckingham and Kelsey Fawkes are **pictured** with their gifts.

## Virgo to Shanghai

**STAR** Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* will homeport in Shanghai for the first time from Jul-Oct, sailing five-night itineraries to Japan.

The vessel will swing by Osaka, allowing passengers access to both Kyoto and Kobe during her 13-hour port time, and will then continue on to Kagoshima.

## RCL earnings boost

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises has reported a US GAAP Net Income for the full year 2016 of US\$1.28 billion, an increase of more than 25% when compared to 2015.

The company's booked position for 2017 is better than last year's record high, aided by strength from North American customers, "a positive outlook for Australia" and a solid position booked in China for the first half of the year.

## Queen Vic to Amazon

**CUNARD'S** *Queen Victoria* visited the Amazon for the first time last week, making her the largest pax ship to sail the river.

The vessel ventured between the Rio Negro and the Amazon River in Manaus, Brazil, as part of her 120-night World Voyage.

## Aqua Exp agent rates

**MEMBERS** of the trade can take advantage of a discounted rate on select Aqua Expeditions three-, four- & seven-night sailings.

The educational departures will be available on *Aria Amazon* from 24 Feb-03 Mar and 07-14 Apr and on *Aqua Mekong* from 03-10 Mar and 05-12 May.

Accredited IATA agents are being offered a rate of US\$350 per person per night, or US\$400 per night for single occupancy.

Guest of agents will receive a 50% discount off gross rates. For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

## Celebrity designer

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has enlisted interior designer Nate Berkus as design ambassador for the line's newest class of ship, Edge Class.

Berkus will host a series of Edge Class reveal events alongside Celebrity's president and ceo Lisa Lutoff-Perlo and chairman and ceo of RCL Richard D. Fain.

## Carnival Ecstasy redo

**CARNIVAL** Ecstasy is sporting new dining and beverage venues following the completion of a multi-million dollar makeover.

The vessel now features Guy's Burger Joint, Blueguana Cantina, Alchemy Bar and Cherry On Top.

Following the ten-day renovation, the ship returned to Charleston, South Carolina, to resume its year-round schedule of four- to 10-day departures.

## Hurtigruten offers

**UNTIL** the end of Feb, book Hurtigruten's Norwegian Classic Coastal Return basic package and receive a \$300pp discount or \$500 on board credit for pax paying the select package fare.

Valid for travel Aug-Dec.

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**Brochure Spotlight**

**G Adventures - Marine 2017**

**Marine**  
Expedition Cruising & Sailing Adventures

**NEW** sailing adventures in Montenegro and Indonesia have been packed into G Adventures' 2017 Marine brochure, along with favourites such as river cruising and expedition cruising.

The Indonesia addition explores the coastlines of Bali and Lombok, while the tour of Montenegro begins in Croatia and sails along the Dalmatian Coast to the Bay of Kotor.





This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

**SYDNEY**  
**Voyager of the Seas** 31 Jan  
**Noordam** 31 Jan  
**Emerald Princess** 01 Feb  
**Seabourn Encore** 02 Feb  
**Pacific Eden** 02 Feb  
**Carnival Legend** 03 Feb  
**Explorer of the Seas** 04 Feb  
**Seven Seas Voyager** 04 Feb  
**Celebrity Solstice** 05 Feb  
**Silver Whisper** 05 Feb  
**Dawn Princess** 05 Feb  
**Norwegian Star** 06 Feb

**MELBOURNE**  
**Golden Princess** 31 Jan  
**Pacific Jewel** 01 Feb  
**Noordam** 02 Feb  
**Dawn Princess** 03 Feb  
**Seabourn Encore** 05 Feb  
**Pacific Jewel** 06 Feb

**BRISBANE**  
**Sun Princess** 02 Feb  
**Pacific Aria** 03 Feb  
**Pacific Dawn** 04 Feb  
**Norwegian Star** 04 Feb  
**Seven Seas Voyager** 06 Feb

**CAIRNS**  
**Pacific Aria** 06 Feb

**FREMANTLE**  
**Pacific Venus** 02 Feb  
**Astor** 03 Feb

**HOBART**  
**Dawn Princess** 31 Jan  
**Carnival Legend** 01 Feb  
**Celebrity Solstice** 03 Feb  
**Noordam** 04 Feb

**AUCKLAND**  
**L'Austral** 31 Jan  
**Radiance of the Seas** 01 Feb  
**Pacific Pearl** 03 Feb  
**Emerald Princess** 04 Feb  
**Ovation of the Seas** 06 Feb

## Cruising's new age

**MILLENNIALS** and Generation Y travellers are increasingly embracing cruising, according to a new report from the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) in the US.

The *Cruise Travel Report* found 90% of Millennials who have experienced cruise travel say they will continue to cruise.

Travel agents are prominent in planning, with 82% of cruise travellers participating in the research saying they work with an agent, compared to 20% of non-cruisers in the survey.

The study also reported that when travel agents participate in the vacation planning process, the likelihood of taking a cruise over a land-based trip increases.

To read the report, **CLICK HERE**.

## TTF looks ahead

**THE** Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) is reinforcing calls for additional cruise ship facilities in Sydney in its 2017/18 Federal Budget submission.

TTF is urging the govt to "explore means of establishing common user terminal facilities at Garden Island for the use of large cruise ships, to help ensure continued growth of this rapidly-expanding tourism segment".

## AIDA food offerings

**AIDA** Cruises has released its new culinary program for 2017 featuring German TV chef Tim Mälze Marquard and pastry chef Andrea Schirmaier-Huber.

In 2017 Mälze Marquard will cook with guests on select cruises while Schirmaier-Huber will show off her skills on board two *AIDAbella* sailings and two *AIDAprima* departures.

## Fairstar reunion a hit



**MORE** than 250 former *TSS Fairstar* passengers and crew shared memories of their beloved ship over the weekend as they marked the 20th anniversary of Fairstar's final cruise from Sydney on 21 Jan, 1997.

Sailing on *Pacific Pearl* for three nights, the group kicked back during a cocktail party and a reunion dinner.

Carnival Australia corp comms manager David Jones welcomed the *Fairstar* followers, describing

them as the pathfinders for the modern era of cruising.

"When *Fairstar* was carrying her hundreds of thousands of passengers over many years of cruising we never could have imagined that one day more than a million Australians a year would be enjoying cruise holidays," Jones said.

The group is **pictured** during reunion celebrations.

## Hapag In2Balance

**GUESTS** on board select departures on Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' *Europa 2* can take part in the new In2Balance program being introduced from Mar.

Yoga, burn-out prevention, t'ai chi, shiatsu and interval training are some of the options to be taught by experts, including American personal trainer, Jonathan Hippensteel and yoga trainer for the German national football team, Patrick Broome.

## Geraldton cruising

**FOUR** new shore tension units are set to be installed at Geraldton Port in WA to make cruise ship visits safer.

The installation comes after some ships scheduled to visit the port had to be cancelled on the day of arrival due to harbour surge from long wave periods.



**PROFESSIONAL** mermaid named 'Mermaid Kat' has boarded *Genting Dream* to take part in Dream Cruises' 'Dreamscapes' program.

The underwater stunt woman is **pictured** on the vessel.



**MEANWHILE**, Princess Cruises fans in the US can sleep in a Princess Luxury Bed without leaving their home.

The cruise line is selling the mattresses to the public, but is only shipping them to the continental United States.

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